

LITERARY NOTES.

In noticing a recently published list of private libraries in this country, "The London Athenaeum" says that it is abundantly confirmed the impression that the prices of the early editions of Shakespeare to those of Stevenson. It adds:

One American collector is credited with no fewer than twenty-five Shakespeare quartos, another with duplicate sets of the first four editions of Walton's "Complete Angler," and the minor collectors are as numerous as in the American. A man can hardly be expected to welcome this influx of rich competitors very contentedly; but the Americans who love English books seldom dislike Englishmen, and are content to share this particular pastime with their children, for the sake of the pleasant sympathies which it creates.

It is understood that the edition de luxe of the new Murray edition of Byron has been successful in this country, as in England. The subscribers are said to have received large advance orders.

Captain Mahan, writing of the Armada in the June "Century," declares in modern terms the causes of the defeat of the so-called "Invincible" fleet to be these:

1. The failure to prescribe the effectual crippling of the English navy as a condition of peace.
2. The neglect to secure beforehand a suitable port for making the junction with the army.
3. The combinations of the English fleet to chase have no right to expect.
4. The failure to send the ships, which could exert their power only close to the enemy, were neither so fast nor so handy as the latter.
5. Only those who have the advantage of range, or of the Atlantic were due either to original unseaworthiness, or to damage received in action, or to bad judgment in taking unseaworthy ships to sea.
6. The failure to send the fleet to sea in a body, and the coast was inhospitable.
7. All these conditions were preventable by human foresight and skill, but I am far from denying the current idea that the reactionary hand of Providence. The assignment of human reasons for failure only shifts the ultimate cause a step back. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

How much Charles Lamb loved the most delightful of all Anglers may be seen in a letter, just published for the first time, which he wrote to his young friend, Robert Lloyd. "I shall expect you," he says, "to bring me a blimful account of the pleasure which Walton has given you when you come to town."

It must square with your mind. The delightful innocence and healthfulness of the Angler's life have been upon your mind like Zephyr. Don't you already feel your spirit filled with the scenes—the banks of rivers, the cowslips, the pastures, the real alehouses, and the honest and milk-maiden's life? "The Angler," says "The Athenaeum," "of what a similar copy in the original boards would fetch." A large portion of the MS. of "Waverley" was sold in 1831 for \$80.

Signor Crispien has nearly finished his memoirs, and the MS. will soon be sent to the English publisher.

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J. C. McCRACKEN, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE RECORD-BREAKER—THE ONE-MILE BICYCLE RECORD FOR THE TRACK LOWERED.

The New Jersey Athletic Club's annual Memorial Day carnival of sports was held yesterday afternoon on the New Jersey A. C. Oval, at Bergen Point, in the presence of fully five thousand spectators. The day was a fine one, and the sports were of a high order.

Two records were broken. The intercollegiate champion, J. C. McCracken, of the University of Pennsylvania, defeated the world's champion, John Flanagan, of the New York Athletic Club, in a three-mile race, which was won by Flanagan in 15 minutes and 15 seconds. The other record-breaking feat was merely that of setting the one-mile bicycle record for the Oval's quarter-mile under track. It was the work of Louis Hunter, who lowered by seven and two-fifths seconds the long-standing figure made by Arthur A. Zimmerman, former world's champion bicycle rider.